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NEWS

Agriculture

Monsanto Rejects \$62 Billion Takeover Offer From Bayer
Monsanto Co. rejected a \$62 billion takeover offer from Bayer AG as too low, while saying it remains open to further deal talks, putting pressure on the German company to raise a bid that has already sent its stock tumbling....

Air Pollution

VW 'On Track' for Timely Diesel-Rigging Settlement
The federal judge demanding Volkswagen AG fix 480,000 diesel-cheating vehicles in the U.S. or get them off the road said the automaker is on pace to meet next month's deadline to reach a deal with car owners....

Asbestos

California Ruling Sets Asbestos Supplier's Duty to Warn
A raw asbestos supplier breached its duty to warn a distributor about the dangers of its product under a "sophisticated intermediary" doctrine adopted by the California Supreme Court May 23 (Webb v. Special Elec. Co., Inc., 2016 BL...

Biotechnology

Argentina Must Find Soybean Solution with Monsanto: U.S.
Argentina's government should seek a solution with Monsanto Co. in a dispute over royalties on genetically modified soybean seeds, a U.S. trade official said....

Biotechnology

GMO Authorizations Should Be Refused, European Parliament Panel Says

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Members of the European Parliament's environment committee May 24 objected to European Union authorizations for two genetically engineered crops, in part because of lawmakers' concerns about the herbicide glyphosate....

Budget

House Begins Consideration of Energy, Water Spending Bill

The House began consideration of a \$37.4 billion energy and water spending bill that would block the Clean Water Rule among other policy riders May 24 despite a looming veto threat by the Obama administration. ...

Budget

House Bill Would Cut EPA Funds, Limit Rules

The Environmental Protection Agency would receive close to \$8 billion in fiscal year 2017 funding, about \$164 million less than current levels, under a House Republican appropriations bill for Interior, Environment and Related Agencies...

Budget

House Funding Bill Boosts Interior Firefighting, Not Fees

The Interior Department and the U.S. Forest Service would have more money to fight wildfires and protect the greater sage grouse under a House appropriations bill unveiled May 24, but the legislation would prohibit raising fees, creating...

Chemicals

House Passes Chemical Reform Bill on 403-12 Vote

On a 403-12 vote, the House approved legislation May 24 that would give the Environmental Protection Agency more authority to evaluate and control the nation's industrial chemicals....

Chemicals

Shell, Texaco, Chevron Victory Upheld in Benzene Case

Two medical causation experts were correctly barred from testifying in a wrongful death suit against oil giants Shell, Texaco and Chevron over whether benzene in gasoline can cause acute myeloid leukemia, the Fifth Circuit ruled May 23 (Burst...

Chemicals

Union Carbide Not Liable for Plant Leak in India, Court Says

Union Carbide Corp. can't be held liable for property damage stemming from the 1984 leak of hazardous chemicals from a plant in Bhopal, India, the Second Circuit affirmed May 24 (Sahu v. Union Carbide Corp., 2016 BL 164278, 2d Cir., No. 14-CV-3087,...

Climate Change

Green Finance Focus May Hurt the Most Vulnerable

The financial mechanisms that may hurt those countries most vulnerable to climate change are coming into sharper focus as credit rating agencies start to factor in the risks of a warming planet....

Climate Change

Mexico Building Energy Efficiency Hits Local Snags

As Mexico tries to improve the energy efficiency of its buildings—a vital step in meeting its aggressive climate change goals—it struggles with pushback from local communities in implementing new building code laws. ...

Climate Change

Report: G-7 Quietly Continuing to Fund Coal Projects

A group of observer organizations released a report May 24 showing that the world's most important industrialized countries continue to fund coal projects, even as they agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through international...

Climate Change

U.S. Insurers Hold Half Trillion in Fossil Fuel Assets

The nation's top insurers hold at least half a trillion dollars in fossil fuel investments that could become financially risky amid tightening carbon controls, according to a first-of-its-kind analysis by sustainability advocacy...

Climate Regulation

Administration Should Halt Methane Efforts: Inhofe

Obama administration officials do not understand the oil and natural gas sector and should therefore halt all regulatory efforts to curb methane pollution from it, the chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee said in...

Climate Regulation

Sen. Blunt Resumes Push to Erect Hurdles to Carbon Tax

Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) introduced a resolution May 24 that would put the Senate on record as opposing a U.S. tax on carbon pollution....

Drinking Water

Bill Would Tax Offshore Profits, Fund Water Infrastructure

A bill introduced by Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) would fund water infrastructure improvements by requiring U.S. corporations to pay income taxes on offshore corporate profits, generating an estimated more than \$60 billion in annual revenue....

Endangered Species

High Court Review Sought on Standing to Litigate Lynx Habitat

The U.S. Forest Service is seeking U.S. Supreme Court review of a Ninth Circuit ruling that affirmed a conservation group's standing under the Endangered Species Act to challenge the agency's broad forest plans to protect critical...

Energy

House Rules Committee Votes to Expand Energy Bill

The House Rules Committee voted May 24 to add drought legislation and a slew of other bills opposed by Democrats and the Obama administration to broad House-passed energy legislation that is headed to conference with the Senate. ...

Energy

Massachusetts House Energy Bill Backs Wind, Hydro

It took six months for Massachusetts lawmakers to craft an omnibus energy bill and just 24 hours for it to cause controversy. ...

Energy

NERC: Aliso Canyon Shows Growing Natural Gas Dependency

The massive natural gas leak from a well in Southern California's Aliso Canyon demonstrates the rising dependence on natural gas by electric grid operators and the vulnerability of electricity outages tied to a single fuel source, according...

Enforcement

Canada Expanding Reach of Environmental Fine Regime

Canada has proposed amendments to expand the existing fine regime for violations of a range of environmental requirements....

Enforcement

China Cites State-Owned Enterprises for Noncompliance

Subsidiaries of several major Chinese state-owned enterprises and wastewater treatment facilities have been named for failing to comply with airborne and wastewater emissions requirements in the first quarter of the year by the Ministry...

Mining

New Mexico Sues EPA Over Gold King Mine Spill

New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas and the state's Environment Department filed a lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency May 23 over the August 2015 Gold King Mine spill that sent 3 million gallons of toxic sludge...

Oil & Gas

E-mail Reveals Ire of Former Pennsylvania Regulator

The sudden resignation of Pennsylvania's top environmental regulator following the leak of a profanity-laced e-mail is raising concerns among environmental activists in the state that the governor's environmental agenda may...

Oil & Gas

Offshore Drilling Foes Invoke 1953 Law to Prod U.S. Ban

Environmental activists who dangled from bridges and paddled kayaks around an Arctic rig have a new strategy for stopping oil development off U.S. coasts: persuading President Barack Obama to use a 1953 law to bar offshore drilling permanently....

Recycling

California, Activists Launch Pilot to Recover Old Tires

The state of California has launched a pilot program with the binational environmental group Wildcoast/Costasalvaje to remove and recycle between 50,000 and 100,000 discarded tires from the San Diego-Tijuana border region over the next...

Superfund

Superfund Tag Needed for N.Y. Creek, Lawmaker Says

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) pushed Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy on May 23 to place Wappinger Creek in Dutchess County, N.Y., on the National Priorities List, the list EPA uses to guide Superfund remediation....

Toxic Substances

Peru Declares State of Emergency to Control Mercury Use

Peru declared a state of emergency in its southernmost jungle region, Madre de Dios, to deal with environmental and health problems created by mercury used in illegal streambed mining along jungle rivers. ...

Toxic Substances

UN Environment Assembly Urges Ban on Lead in Paint

The United Nations May 24 called on delegates attending the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi to urge their governments to ban the use of lead in paint, saying there is no safe level of exposure to lead....

Trade

Vietnam Had Change in Mind When Signing TPP

Vietnam had corruption, environmental and other improvements in mind when it signed a comprehensive trade deal that includes the U.S., according to a trade negotiator for the Communist country....

Vehicle Fuels

Beijing to Adopt China's Toughest Fuel Quality Standards

In an effort to help clear the air in the polluted capital, Beijing will institute China's toughest fuel quality standards beginning Jan. 1, 2017, the government announced May 23....

Water Infrastructure

San Francisco Issues First Green Water Bond

San Francisco's Public Utilities Commission has issued the first certified "green" bond for low-carbon water infrastructure projects....

Water Pollution

Clean Water Rule Lawsuit Stayed in Federal Court

A federal district judge in North Dakota stayed all proceedings in a lawsuit over the Clean Water Rule May 24 until the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit finishes its review of challenges to the rule (North Dakota v. EPA, D.N.D.,...

Water Pollution

House Passes Zika Control Bill, Axing Water Permits

The Republican-dominated House passed legislation May 24 banning Clean Water Act discharge permits for pesticides sprayed on or near waters until Sept. 30, 2018....

Water Resources

Corps Asserting Jurisdiction Despite Stay: Farm Bureau

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is asserting Clean Water Act jurisdiction over water features using measures approved in the

Clean Water Rule even though a federal appeals court has stayed it nationwide, an American Farm Bureau Federation...

CORRECTION

A May 23 article, "Yucca Still to Face Resistance After Reid Retirement," should have quoted Katrina McMurrian, executive director of the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition, as saying the nuclear industry should explore permanent...

INTERVIEW

Chemicals

Shimkus on 'Historic' Agreement on Chemical Reform
Rep. John Shimkus (R-Ill.), chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy, has taken the lead in ushering through Congress the first update of the Toxic Substances Control Act in 40 years. Shortly before...

BNA INSIGHTS

The TSCA Amendments Simplified: Nine Key Features of the New Law and Three Compromises That Will Affect Business

Congress is enacting sweeping amendments to the nation's cornerstone chemicals control law, the 40-year-old Toxic Substances Control Act. The amendments are intended to empower and re-invigorate the Environmental Protection Agency's...

REGULATORY AGENDA

Comment Deadlines

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